

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 AGR-05 COME-00

OMB-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 IGA-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 EA-06 /071 W

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R 191140Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2253

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) COLOMBO 384; (B) COLOMBO 278

1. AUUTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS SHOWN AMBASSADOR TELEGRAM FROM CANBERRA STATING THAT GOA AGREES PROVIDE SRI LANKA 80,000 AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS ON GRANT BASIS FOR 8 WATER PUMPS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS. GOA IS ALSO SENDING EXPERT TO OBTAIN FURTHER TECHNICAL INFORMATION RE PUMPS AND HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS CONSIDER UP TO 250,000 AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS TOTAL FOR ADDITIONAL PUMPS. THIS IS AUSRALIAN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S APPEAL TO AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRASH FOOD DRIVE MADE JANUARY 27 (COLOMBO 250). APPEAL WAS SIMILAR TO HER PERSONAL APPEAL MADE TO AMBASSADOR JANUARY 29 (COLOMBO 278). GOVECPMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS PLAYED STORY OF AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PROMINENTLY ON FRONT PAGE.

2. BALIS, AID/NESA, HAS HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON PRELIMINARY INFORMATION REGARDING GSL'S REQUIRMENTS. AID REPRESENTATIVE HAS NOW RECEIVED MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WHICH IS BEING POUCHED AND CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC
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MISSIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN FOR MEETING FEBRUARY 21BY

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, TISSA WIJEYERATNE, TO HAND OVER DOCUMENTS
PERTAINING TO FOOD PRODUCTION IN SRI LANKA. THIS MAY BE
ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENT OF APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING AUSTRALIAN AID-GIVING PROCEDURES MAY
BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN OURS, WE HOPE WASHINGTON CAN EMULATE
CANBERRA'S QUICK REACTION TO EXTENT POSSIBLE AND RESPOND
SOON TO ONE OF PM'S THREE URGENT REQUESTS: FOR PUMPS,
EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS FOR U.S.-MANUFACTURED
EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT. PERHAPS END-OF-YEAR FUNDS MAY BE
AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. BASED ON AUSTRALIAN
EXPERIENCE, RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT IS LIKELY TO GENERATE
CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL FOR U.S.
VAN HOLVLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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